



**South Shore  
Hospital**

55 Fogg Road  
South Weymouth  
Massachusetts 02190-2455  
[www.southshorehospital.org](http://www.southshorehospital.org)

**RICHARD D. MIREL, MD, FACP**  
*Chairman, Department of Medicine*

July 16, 2014

Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General  
Attn: Antitrust Division  
One Ashburton Place - 18th Floor  
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Attorney General Coakley:

As Chairman of the Department of Medicine, I am writing to express my support for the Determination of Need application for South Shore Hospital to join the Partners Health Care System project #3C19.

I have been Chair of Medicine at South Shore Hospital for 12 years and have seen a dramatic change in the way in which medical care is delivered to the community. A significant part of this change is related to our enhanced clinical affiliation with the Brigham & Women's Hospital/Partners Health Care. We have built a significant Cardiovascular Center and a state of the art Cancer Center to deliver the type of advanced care that the community both needs and desires. Emergency and elective angioplasty are both available to patients on the South Shore. We would not have been able to deliver this type of care without our clinical affiliation with Brigham & Women's Hospital and the Dana Farber Cancer Institute/Partners Cancer Care (DFCI/PCC). We have a significant clinical trials program that also has been enhanced by our clinical relationship with both the Brigham & Women's Hospital and the DFCI/PCC.

In order to be able to deliver the next level of care, that is, to have fully integrated care for our patients and to provide a spectrum of care in a continuous fashion, it is essential that we have a corporate affiliation with Partners Health Care and the Brigham & Women's Hospital. We need to expand local access to primary and specialty care and have the ability to transfer that information to a tertiary center, the Brigham & Women's Hospital, when needed. All information needs to be seamlessly transferred via an integrated electronic health record (EHR).

We have initiated many projects to attempt to bridge the continuity of care for patients and to provide care from the primary care level through advanced hospital care with transfers to the Brigham & Women's Hospital for tertiary and quaternary care. Our systems at this point are not sufficient for this to be seamless. As Chair of Medicine, I think it is essential that we bring the world-class experience and resources of New England's largest health care network to South Shore Hospital to better serve our patients on the South Shore.

If we are serious about the importance of health care providers working together to improve coordination of care, accessibility and affordability of care, and the new payment models that are currently being structured, we must make fundamental changes in our relation to a tertiary care system such as Partners Health Care System and the Brigham & Women's Hospital, which has been our clinical partner for well over ten years. We need access to advanced technology and systems of care that would be integrated with our current platform.

The Department of Medicine and its subspecialties provide both frontline care as primary care physicians, that is, general internists, as well as specialty physicians, that is, oncologists who deliver cancer care, cardiologists who perform interventional cardiology, endocrinologists who deliver care related to diabetes and other endocrine systems, as well as numerous other specialties. Each of these areas requires a relationship with more advanced care, technology and educational opportunities that the Partners Health Care System and Brigham & Women's Hospital can afford us.

If South Shore Hospital is to be true to its mission and continue to support the community's health care needs, it must join Partners Health Care to be able to deliver the most sophisticated and cost-efficient care possible.

I strongly support the proposal for South Shore Hospital to join Partners Health Care and recommend that the Determination of Need application be approved.

I would be happy to supply you with further information or answer any questions that you have related to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "mi g-ri", is positioned above the printed name.

Richard D. Mirel, M.D.

RDM/cam

cc: Mr. Richard Aubut  
Chief Executive Officer  
South Shore Health and Educational Corporation  
South Shore Hospital  
55 Fogg Road  
South Weymouth, MA 02190